

CHAL 0769
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22 October 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT: Photo Coverage of Polyarnyy Urals

1. In reply to your inquiry re coverage of the Polyarnyy Ural-Kotlas rail complex this fall, the following comments are provided:

a. Insofar as sun angles are concerned, it will be possible to complete the mission, as outlined on attached map, up to and including 2 November 1959. If we could accomplish this mission by the above date, we can be assured of a minimum of $7\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ sun angle at the extreme northeast end of the route; $13\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ sun angle in the Kotlas area and $10\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ sun angle in the Molotovsk area.

b. Weather considerations are by far the most restricting for this target, especially at this time of the year. It can normally be expected that a location of ten miles or less radius, such as Polyarnyy Ural or Salekard, in the northern tip of the Urals will have 2/8 or less cloud cover less than one day between 22 October and 2 November. The probability of 20% or more of an area as extensive as the rail line between Polyarnyy Ural and Kotlas having 2/8 or less cloud cover is extremely small.

Two cloud-cover studies, one of which was especially prepared for Projects CHALICE and CORONA utilizing data collected in 1954 through 1958, are the basis for the above estimates.

2. If approval were given to attempt this mission at this time, we would employ the following operational concept:

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a. Use "fast move" concept [redacted] as pre-staging base and [redacted] as take-off and landing base for the mission.

b. We would use one of the J-75 equipped aircraft.

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[redacted]
All portions of flight over denied territory to be at 70,000 feet.

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d. The mission would take approximately [redacted] hours depending on whether or not we overfly the Molotovsk area.

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3. If mission approval is granted, we will have no difficulties in getting into position [redacted] favorable weather by 26 October 1959.

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4. In addition to the above, Headquarters will have to lay on arrange-

[redacted]

STANLEY W. BEERLI
Colonel USAF
Chief, Operations Branch, DPD-DD/P

JFR:bm
1 & 2 - Addressee
3 - C/Ops/DPD
4 - Ops subj-chron
5I - Ops chron-(Chap)

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[redacted]